

ENGC16, English: To Write and Read Short Stories, 7.5 credits

Engelska: Att läsa och skriva noveller, 7,5 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2024-12-12 (U 2024/868) and was last revised on 2026-02-16 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2026/50). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-03-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course. It can normally be included as part of a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

- G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student is to be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- identify and account for craft choices in short fiction read during the course, both orally and in writing,
- account for basic craft terms, such as plot, characterization, point of view, description, and pacing,

Competence and skills

- discuss and write about contemporary short fiction using relevant craft terms, such as plot, characterization, point of view, description, and pacing,
- at a basic level, apply narrative techniques in their own writing,

Judgement and approach

- compare, assess, and argue for the effects of different craft elements in contemporary short fiction.

Course content

This course introduces some of the fundamentals of writing short literary fiction. Students will read, study, and discuss contemporary short fiction reading, as well as the craft choices that shape those stories. Through this work, students will develop a working knowledge of craft that will inform their own work. Students will also engage in creative writing exercises and give and receive feedback on written work. No prior creative writing experience is necessary.

Course design

The course is based on active participation, discussion, reading, and writing. The teaching consists of scheduled sessions comprising, among other things, short lecture components and group discussions. Students will be expected to bring their own insights on the session's readings to class, to actively contribute to discussion, and to take part in writing activities.

Assessment

The course is examined through participation in six–seven seminars, an activity portfolio, a short craft analysis of 500 words (due at midpoint) and a final reflective essay (c. 1,000 words), in which the student reflects on how they incorporated and made use of craft elements and peer feedback in their short story. The activity portfolio will include six writing exercises that the student completes according to instructions given in class, a draft of a short story (c. 3,000 words) that incorporates and further develops one or more of these short writing exercises.

The examiner may deviate from the regular form of examination if it cannot be implemented during a retake. Information about retakes should be available at the beginning of the course.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

Participants are awarded a maximum of 60 points, divided between assignments as follows:

- Active participation in class: 5 points

- Activity portfolio: 20 points
- Craft analysis: 10 points
- Reflective essay: 25 points

Participation and activity portfolio are graded on a pass/fail basis, meaning that a student who completes the task satisfactorily is awarded the points. The craft analysis and the reflective essay will be assessed according to criteria distributed at the start of the course.

To pass the course, at least 40 points must be awarded. To achieve the grade Pass with distinction, at least 51 points must be awarded. The final reflection must always achieve at least 15 points.

Entry requirements

General eligibility and 30 credits in English.

Further information

- The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
- The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree.